

PROCESS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE GRANTS

Overview

The Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR's) **Pest Management Alliance Grant** program will request proposals for projects to increase implementation of effective pest management practices that reduce risks to human health, non-target organisms, and the environment.

Funding

Pending State Budget approval, \$585,000 will be available July 2007. Grants cannot exceed \$300,000 per project with project completion no later than May 2010.

Grant Criteria

Funding is limited to projects focused on implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) programs that reduce the use of pesticides of environmental or human health concern.

IPM Defined: IPM is a long-term, preventive approach to managing pests that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control practices. IPM involves a decision-making process based on pest identification and population monitoring, action thresholds, and knowledge of pest biology. Pest management practices that are effective and economically viable are used in a manner that benefits consumers, farm workers, urban neighborhoods, and the environment. Pesticides are used judiciously and only as a last resort.

IPM programs incorporate the use of various practices such as: cover crops; crop rotation; insect baits; pest exclusion; sanitation, release of natural enemies; pheromone mating confusion; and/or the use of products that act as insect growth regulators. IPM programs may include variable rate pesticide applications, remote sensing of pest population development, or "smart" sprayer/target sensing application equipment or other technologies that reduce pesticide use relative to conventional pesticide applications.

Grant Term

Grant can be for a maximum of 30 months (not to extend beyond May 2010).

Application Process

The application process consists of two competitive phases:

Phase 1: Concept –A three-page summary of the proposed project.

Phase 2 : Formal proposal – DPR staff will select concepts for the next phase, a proposal of approximately 20 pages describing the proposed project in detail.

Preliminary Schedule for the Two-Step Application Process
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July 2, 2007	Release of Alliance Grant Solicitation package
July 2-July 23, 2007	Questions can be submitted about the concept phase (by e-mail only)
July 11-25, 2007	Answers posted on DPR website
August 1, 2007	Grant Concepts due
August 2, 3, 2007	Grant Concepts reviewed and evaluated
August 8, 2007	Invitation issued to develop and submit a grant proposal
August 13-September 10, 2007	Questions can be submitted about the proposal phase (by e-mail only)
August 22-September 12, 2007	Answers posted on DPR website.
October 10, 2007	Proposals due.
November 15, 2007	Pest Management Advisory Committee Meeting (to review and recommend proposals)
January 9, 2008	Award grants, grant work begins.

Background

From 1997 to 2002, DPR's Pest Management Alliance Program was instrumental in demonstrating practices and programs that helped to increase the adoption of IPM. Projects addressed a wide array of agricultural and urban pest management needs. In agriculture, DPR-funded projects that demonstrated IPM practices in almonds, wine grapes, walnuts, prunes, peaches, plums, citrus, and other commodities—crops planted on hundreds of thousands of acres in California. In the urban environment, DPR Alliance projects have helped schools, museums, and communities demonstrate model IPM programs. A list and summaries of past projects can be found at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pmap/grants/alliance/allisums/.htm>

Some success stories are outlined below.

- The **Dried Plum Alliance**, established in 1998, eliminated winter applications of organophosphate insecticides in 33 demonstration orchards that account for 11 percent of California's dried plum acreage. Reduced-risk insecticides and dormant oils replaced the organophosphates in these trials.
- The **Almond Pest Management Alliance** was formed in 1998 with pesticide reduction as a priority. Almond growers used 14.5 million pounds of pesticide in 1997, a year before the Alliance, but 10.1 million pounds in 2002. Use of diazinon fell from 115,000 pounds in 1997 to 63,000 pounds in 2001, a 45 percent drop.
- The **Pear Alliance** adopted "puffers" to control their most destructive pest, the codling moth. Puffers are devices that dispense a pheromone similar to that of female codling moths. The scent confuses male moths, preventing them from mating, thereby reducing pest populations. Using "puffer" mating disruption has replaced up to four applications of organophosphate insecticides annually.
- The **Riverside Municipal Museum** eliminated regularly scheduled pesticide applications and switched to IPM procedures. Pheromone trap monitoring, improved housekeeping, harborage reduction, and detailed knowledge of pest species biology enabled staff to manage moths, ants, cockroaches, silverfish, and other urban pests. In addition, an entirely new landscape was installed that minimized incursions by pests from the surrounding urban environment
- There are over five million students in California public schools. The **School Alliance** developed curricula and record keeping tools for school administrators and staff. Along with the curriculum, the Alliance team provided reference material and seven videos about IPM. The material was presented to 33 school districts in Ventura County.

Pest Management Alliance

DPR has received limited funding to restore the Pest Management Alliance Grant (“Alliance”) program. The solicitation will seek groups with knowledge of pest management practices to effectively manage key pests while minimizing risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

Alliances will need to assemble a strong **Management Team** that includes representatives with broad influence – opinion leaders – such as commodity groups, growers, landscape professionals, university, urban pest managers or industry representatives, in order to facilitate implementation. An Alliance should also include **Team Partners**—those who are involved in the activities of the Alliance project but not part of project management.

Alliances must focus on pest management practices and/or technologies that are successful and ready for **implementation**. Small-scale research can be a component of the overall Alliance project, but should not be the focus of the project or budget. Alliances need to provide evidence that adoption is taking place (or beginning to take place) by the end of the grant period.

Alliance organizers are asked to establish a **baseline** of current pest management practices, evaluate effective pest management **options**, **define** the successful IPM program and implement their plan to increase adoption of the IPM program during the grant period.

Grant Priority Areas

Priority funding will be given to projects in two areas:

IPM in Food/Fiber Production Agriculture:

- for pesticides of human health concern or found in water or air
- for reduction in volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.

IPM in Urban Environments (e.g., schools, child care, hospitals, public housing, homes, parks):

- for pesticides of human health concern or found in water

Who Should Apply

Groups planning to carry out the proposed work in California are eligible to receive funding. Principal investigators may come from public or private institutions or organizations including, but not limited to, commodity boards, University of California Cooperative Extension, accredited institutions of higher learning, resource conservation districts, licensed pest control businesses, school districts, governmental agencies, non governmental organizations and others.

Two-Phase Application Process

Interested applicants must submit an **Alliance Concept** in phase 1. Concepts are a three-page summary describing:

- DPR grant priority areas that apply to the project,
- The goals and objectives of the project,
- The team assembled to carry out project tasks,
- How the project will communicate the IPM program to the target audience, and
- How success will be measured or evaluated.

Successful Phase 1 applicants will be invited to develop the Concept into an expanded and more detailed Alliance Proposal in phase 2.

An invitation to submit a Phase 2 Alliance Proposal is not a guarantee of funding. The Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC), or a subcommittee of the PMAC, will evaluate the Proposals. The PMAC will recommend to the DPR Director the proposals to be funded and the amount allotted to each. The program anticipates funding 3-4 Alliance Proposals during this grant period.
